THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK); (a) and (b) Drought like situation is reportedly prevailing in the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) 11914 villages in 19 districts of Orissa are reported to be facing drought like situation.

(e) and (f) 4.95 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allocated free of cost under the Food for Work Programme and 1.70 lakh MTs of "feed grade" foodgrains to be used as cattle feed have been released to the drought affected States. In addition, transportation of water and fodder by the Railways free of cost have been arranged and assistance amounting to Rs. 280 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund has been released to the drought affected States.

Drought in Orissa and Gujarat

109. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Government have declared drought affected areas in Orissa and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the demand made by these States to deal with the drought; and

(d) the assistance extended by the Central Government to these States to combat the drought situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) 11914 villages in 19 districts of Orissa and 10431 villages in 20 districts of Gujarat are facing drought-like situation.

(c) and (d) During 2000-01, Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 131.14 crore to Gujarat and Rs. 82.10 crore to Orissa have been released. 25% of Central share for 2001-02

amounting to Rs. 21.55 crore has also been released to Orissa. In addition, against the demand of Rs. 1974.23 crore and Rs. 443.95 crore projected by the Governments of Gujarat and Orissa in the wake of drought, assistance of Rs. 85.00 crore to Gujarat and Rs. 35.00 crore to Orissa have been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. The other steps taken include transportation of water and fodder by the Railways free of cost, allocation of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates, allocation of foodgrains for Food for Work Programme free of cost and release of "feed grade" foodgrains to be used as cattle feed.

Promotion and development of cooperative sector

†110. SHRI M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the specific proposals formulated by Government to promote and develop cooperative sector in the rural areas of the country;

(b) what necessary steps, have been taken by Government, so far, to implement the above proposals; and

(c) the achievements made after implementation of the above proposals for development of cooperative sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been formulating various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote and develop cooperative sector in the country, primarily in the rural areas. A list of the Schemes is given in Statement-I *(See* below). The Government of India has already set up a statutory body *i.e.* National Cooperative Development Corporation to promote cooperatives in the country. The Government is providing 100 percent financial grant to National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) for conducting cooperative training programmes in the country. National Cooperative Union of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.